

DOE internships provide opportunity for students

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Dylan Nichols | Paducah/FPDP

Seventeen college interns recently began a 10-week internship program with Fluor Paducah Deactivation Project, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) cleanup contractor. They are (left to right) Dylan Clark, Ben Redfield, Zoe Jones, Isaac Klapp, Caroline Washer, Hayden Cash, Holly Young, Brandon Morehead, Caitlin Drewett, Victoria Holmes, Caleb Roher, Ansley Sims, Aaron Collie, Nicole Germain, Alexis Wiseman, Justin King and Schubert Moffatt.

Recently, 17 college interns began a 10-week internship program with Fluor Paducah Deactivation Project, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) cleanup contractor. The students' majors include mechanical, chemical, and electrical engineering; occupational safety and health; and business areas such as accounting, procurement, and finance.

"Interns have an incredible opportunity to exercise their strengths and learn their interests working with mentors from around the site," said Jennifer Woodard, DOE Paducah Site lead. "This summer program allows interns to network, experience personal and career development classes, and build skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and effective communication."

"The internship program is great. I have really enjoyed learning how the surveillance and maintenance tasks are prioritized," said Caleb Rohrer, a senior studying mechanical engineering at the University of Kentucky College of Engineering-Paducah campus. "My mentor also has taught me the process tasks must go through from the time they are entered as a work order and how they go through planning and scheduling until they are completed by the maintenance team."

In addition to working with their mentors, interns will be working on special volunteer projects like collecting and stuffing 125 backpacks for local middle schools. The interns also will be executing a sitewide campaign for the "Feds Feed Families" program, which helps stock local food pantries.

A National Association of Colleges and Employers recent report noted that 65.4 percent of students who had a paid internship received a job offer prior to graduation. Internships are an experience and launching pad for lifelong relationships and career possibilities that will support future goals, dreams, and aspirations.

"There is no substitute for experience; you have to know what you are doing," said Bob Smith, Fluor project manager. "The intern program offers a strong foundation with many opportunities because the site has a wide assortment of professional careers ranging from science, IT, and engineering to business, purchasing, and finance."